

REMARKS

In claim 1 of the application at lines 6-7 the applicant claims that each cut runs between an adjacent pair of ribs.

The structure of the applicant's foldable support device is different from the Amatangelo reference in that in Amatangelo the foldable support device has plastic panels (12) formed of parallel sheets (14, 16) separated by longitudinally spaced, parallel ribs (18) and wherein the panels are foldably, hingedly attached by a cut (40) in one of the sheets (14).

In the applicant's claim there are upper and lower sheets with parallel ribs between the upper and lower sheets. The linear cut is parallel to and between adjacent ribs from one side of the upper sheet to the other side of the upper sheet.

As shown in Amatangelo in Fig 6 the cut 40 is not be between adjacent ribs. The cut 40 is across the ribs 218. The cut is semicircular through the ribs such that the cut out portion of the ribs act as foldable hinges as shown in Fig. 5 where a portion 260 of the rib remains to provide an arcuate hinge 240.

The applicant uses a cut on the top sheet only. The cut is parallel to the ribs and does not cut into them to provide an arcuate hinge as Amatangelo does.

The applicant believes that claim 1 is not obvious in view of Amatangelo since the structure is different. Amatangelo teaches arcuate hinges made from the rib material to give strength to the hinge. The applicant in claim 1 relies on the hinge being only of the bottom sheet of material, between adjacent ribs, such that the ribs play no structural part in the hinge. As seen in Fig. 2 of the application the cuts are all in the top sheet. The bottom sheet between the ribs acts as the hinge. Since the cut is between two adjacent parallel ribs the ribs do not interfere with each other when the foldable support device is being folded.

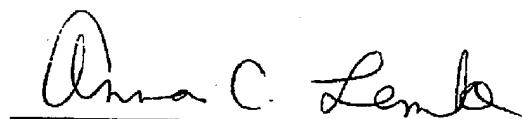
Amatangelo teaches away from the structure of the applicant's claim and therefore the applicant's claims are not obvious in view of Amatangelo.

It was not previously appreciated that a hinge could be made by using the bottom sheet between two adjacent ribs after the top sheet was cut between the adjacent ribs.

Therefore the applicant believes that claim 1 of her application is allowable over the prior art.

CERTIFICATE OF FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION

I hereby certify that the transmittal letter, fax cover sheet and Supplemental Remarks (2pp.) in response to the Office Action dated October 2, 2003, in Application No. 09/847,480 of applicant, SUZAN HARDY, filed May 2, 2001, for "FOLDABLE SUPPORT DEVICE", is being sent by facsimile transmission to: Examiner Naschica S. Morrison, Art Unit 3632, Box Non-Fee Amendments (PATS), Commissioner for Patents, P.O. BOX 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on 19 December 2003, facsimile No. 703-872-9306.



Anna C. Lemke
On behalf of Steven E. Kahm
Date of Signature: December 19, 2003.